

between the United States and Great Britain, and finally one of the framers of the Constitution of the United States.

This was Dr. Benjamin Franklin, the patriot and the philosopher ; and I cannot but express a confident hope that the City and the State of which he was so distinguished an ornament, will never permit the hands of the tax-gatherer to diminish the fund devoted to the interests of science in every part of the world, both in peace and in war, and belonging to a Society of which he was the founder.

Judgment affirmed.

Pending nominations Nos. 446 to 455 were read.

The special committee on the Catalogue presented a report, which on motion of Dr. Bache was adopted and the committee discharged.

On motion of Judge King, it was *Resolved*, That the Society authorize and request its officers to execute a power of attorney, to M. A. Germain, of Pontoise, notary, charged with the execution of the Will of the late M. André Michaux, constituting him the attorney at law and in fact of this Society, to maintain its rights to the legacy bequeathed to it therein ; which power of attorney is now present and read before the Society.

Mr. Foulke tendered his resignation from the Library Committee, which was accepted, and Mr. Price was appointed by the Vice-President to supply the vacancy.

And the Society was adjourned.

Stated Meeting, April 18, 1862.

Present thirty-six members.

Dr. FRANKLIN BACHE, in the Chair.

Mr. Sidney George Fisher, a new member, was presented by Mr. Fraley.

Baron Ostensacken and Mr. Kimber, members of Corresponding Societies, were introduced by Dr. Le Conte and Professor Coppée.

Mirza Alexander Casem Beg, a new member, signified his

acceptance of membership by letter, dated St. Petersburg, March 3-15, 1862.

Letters acknowledging the receipt of publications, and requesting the completion of their sets, were received from the Essex Institute, dated Salem, Massachusetts, March 28; from Harvard College, April 7; from the New York State Library, April 5; from the Astor Library, April 5; from the New York Lyceum, April 14; and from the Chicago Historical Society, April 7, 1862.

A letter announcing a large donation for the Library, was received from the Royal Academy of History, dated Madrid, March 12, 1862.

A letter was read from Dr. Wood, the President of the Society, to the Secretary, dated Florence, March 17, 1862.

A letter from Wm. Jones, Librarian of the Buffalo Young Men's Association, was read and referred to the Library Committee with power to take action.

Donations for the Library were received from the Academies at Paris and Philadelphia; the Societies of Science at Emden and Hobarton; the Royal Astronomical Society, Geological Society, Society of Arts, and Board of Trade at London; the Institutes at Dresden, Utrecht, and Philadelphia; the University at Christiania, and of New York; the Museums at Nürnberg, and Peel Park; the Free Public Library at New Bedford; the booksellers Voight and Günther, of Weimar; Schmidt, Müldener, and Zuchold, of Göttingen; Norton, of New York; and Leypoldt, of Philadelphia.

Mr. Fraley announced the death of a member, Mr. George M. Justice, on the 14th inst., in the 70th year of his age. Mr. Letchworth was appointed to prepare an obituary notice of the deceased.

A letter was read from Dr. Tafel, of St. Louis, dated March, 1862, accompanying a manuscript history of the English Language, offered for publication by the Society, which, on motion, was referred to the same committee, consisting of Dr. Coates, Professor Alexander, and Professor Coppée, that had charge of the memoir of Dr. Tafel, lately published in the Proceedings.

Professor Coppée introduced the subject of Flax and the manufacture of Linen in the United States, the history of which was then given by Mr. Kimber, of Philadelphia, with the causes leading to its abandonment in 1857, and the difficulties, probability, and utility of its revival. Other members present then spoke of the substitution of Flax for Cotton, and of the growth of Cotton in the Northern States, in China, and elsewhere. Dr. Rogers hoped to see the fibre of the Flax become a substitute for Cotton, and based the hope upon their similarity under a microscope, and the fact that no perfect solvent for the cement between the fibres had been yet discovered. Dr. Coates referred to communications on the subject in the Proceedings of the Rhode Island Society, and to manuscripts in the possession of an absent member, Mr. Powel.

Mr. Peale submitted for inspection a large collection of the Stone implements of the Ancient Britons, which he had lately received from England; they were obtained from barrows in the North Riding of Yorkshire.

Mr. Dubois made the following communication respecting the average health of Philadelphia, in comparison with other cities.

The last edition of the Encyclopædia Britannica, in the article MORTALITY, contains a tabular statement, which, however accurate in other respects, is far from being correct in regard to Philadelphia. It professes to show (but without citing authorities), the ratio of deaths in every thousand of the population, per annum, in various cities of the world, arranging them in the order of healthfulness. Philadelphia stands pretty far down in the catalogue, and, as will surprise every one, quite below London and New York. Its annual mortality is stated to be 26.8 per thousand.

In point of fact, the mortality for the years 1859, 1860, and 1861, being averaged, shows an annual proportion of 21 to 1000, if the still-born are included; if not, about 20 to 1000. This result places Philadelphia near the top of the list, and agrees with the general impression on this side of the ocean. It may be remarked that the year just elapsed, although not visited by any great epidemics, was unusually fatal in Philadelphia.

It may be interesting to add, in this connection, that the *average*

duration of life, found by multiplying the various ages of the dying by their numbers respectively, and dividing the sum of the products by the whole population, is 23 years, in Philadelphia. Excluding those who die under one year, and who may be said not to have the stamina to begin the race of life, the average duration is $30\frac{1}{4}$ years. This small allotment, it is scarcely necessary to observe, arises from the large proportion of deaths under the age of five years; nearly one-half of the entire sum.

Pending nominations Nos. 446 to 455 and new nominations Nos. 456 and 457 were read.

Nominations Nos. 446 to 455 were ballotted for, and there being no other business before the Society, the ballot boxes were examined, and the following persons were declared by the presiding officer to have been duly elected members of the Society:

Professor F. L. OTTO RÆHRIG, of Philadelphia.

Lieutenant H. L. ABBOT, Corps of Topographical Engineers, United States Army.

Professor OSWALD HEER, of Zurich, Switzerland.

Professor JOHN LINDLEY, of London, F.R.S.

Professor JOHANN LIEBIG, of Munich, Bavaria.

Professor FRIEDRICH WÖHLER, of Göttingen, Germany.

Professor J. W. DAWSON, of Montreal, Canada.

Captain SAMUEL F. DUPONT, of the United States Navy.

Dr. GEORGE ENGLEMAN, of St. Louis, Missouri.

WILLIAM S. SULLIVANT, Esq., of Columbus, Ohio.

And the Society was adjourned.

Stated Meeting, May 2, 1862.

Present, seventeen members.

Vice-President, JUDGE SHARSWOOD, in the Chair.

Letters accepting membership, were received from Professor J. W. Dawson, of Montreal, dated April 23, 1862, and H. L. Abbot, Lieutenant United States Army, Topographical Engineers, dated Camp Winfield Scott, April 24, 1862.